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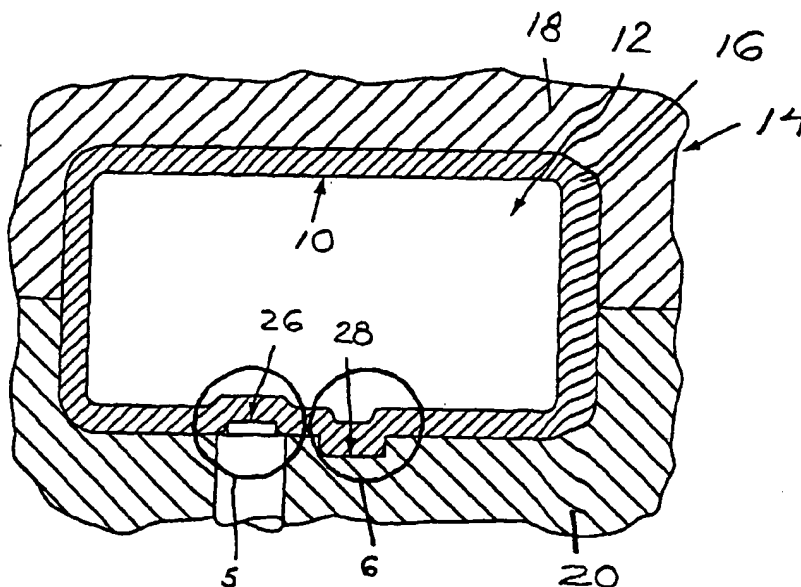
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF FORMING HYDROFORMED MEMBER WITH OPENING



(57) Abstract: A method for manufacturing a hydroforming member includes the step of providing a blank (10). The blank (10) is defined by blank wall (16). The blank (10) is placed in a die assembly (14) having a die cavity (12) defined by a die surface (24). The blank (10) is expanded so that the blank wall (16) is forced against the die surface (24) to form the hydroformed member. A portion of the blank wall conforms against a wall-thinning element (26, 28) positioned along the die surface (24) to form a removable wall section (46, 50) in a portion of the blank wall (24). The removable wall section (46, 50) is then removed from the blank wall (16) to form an opening in the hydroformed member.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 995 513 A (ALUSUISSE LONZA SERVICES AG) 26 April 2000 (2000-04-26) figures 4,5,7	1-12
X	US 6 401 507 B1 (GENERAL MOTOR CORPORATION) 11 June 2002 (2002-06-11) figures 2,3	1-12
A	EP 0 844 034 A (DAIMLER BENZ AG) 27 May 1998 (1998-05-27) figures 1-9	1-12
A	EP 0 940 200 A (DAIMLER CHRYSLER AG) 8 September 1999 (1999-09-08) figures 1-4	1-12

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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